

to education. To Joseph C. Cabell, one of his co-workers, " wrote at the close of 1820 a letter which shows, as does hard any other, his clearness of vision. He had none of that wilful blindness to local conditions of which public men are so oft< guilty.

"Surely," he wrote, "the pride as well as the patriotism of our legislature will be stimulated to look to the reputation and safety of their own country, to rescue it from the degradation of becoming the Barbary of the Union and of falling into the ranks of our own negroes. To that condition it is fast sinking; We shall be in the hands of the other States, what our predecessors were when invaded by the science and arts of Europe. The mass of education in Virginia, before the revolution, placed her with the foremost of her sister colonies. What is her education now? Where is it? The little we have we import like beggars from other States; or import the beggars to bestow on us their miserable crumbs. And what : wanting to restore us to our station among our competitors. Not more money from the people. Enough has been raised by them, and appropriated to this very object. It is that it should be employed understandingly, and for their greatest good."

In the attitude of the next legislature toward the university lay a bitter disappointment for Jefferson. In members for whom he had expected co-operation he met indifference, doubt, even hostility. Early in 1821 he again wrote Cabell, this time in great dejection, but with no weakening as to the extreme importance of his position. "I am filled with gloom as to the disposition of our legislature toward the university. I perceive that I am not to live to see it open. *

* * My individual opinion is, that we had better not open the institution until the buildings, library and all are finished, and our funds cleared of incumbrance. * * * If we were to begin sooner, with half funds only, it would satisfy the common mind, prevent their aid beyond that point, and our institution remaining at that forever: would be no more than the paltry academies we now have. Even with the whole funds we shall be reduced to six professors, while Harvard will still prime it over us with her twenty